

Message Text

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ORIGIN STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-11 ISO-00 STRE-00 FEA-01 AGR-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

OMB-01 OIC-02 /101 R

DRAFTED BY STR:MBSMITH:ATN

APPROVED BY STR:MBSMITH

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R 092309Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT: MFA RENEWAL - HONG KONG VIEWS

GENEVA FOR PHELAN

1. DURING COURSE OF MARCH 4 CONSULTATIONS ON TECHNICAL TEXTILE MATTERS, PETER CHOU, HKG TEXTILE NEGOTIATOR, TOLD USDEL THAT HKG HAS NOT YET FINALIZED ITS POSITION RE RENEWAL OF THE MFA. HOWEVER, CHOU DID STATE IT WAS UNREALISTIC TO THINK THE MFA WILL END IN 1977 AND, HENCE, THE OPTIONS CONCERNED INVOLVE ONLY WHAT FORM A NEW MFA MIGHT TAKE. AS CHOU SAW IT, THESE OPTIONS WERE (1) NO CHANGE IN THE MFA, (2) IMPROVEMENTS FROM THE EXPORTING COUNTRIES' POINT OF VIEW, OR (3) POSSIBLE MELDING OF MFA INTO GATT ARTICLE XIX.

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CHOU THEN SAID THAT WHERE AND HOW HKG COMES DOWN ON THE

MATTER WILL DEPEND ON HOW HKG HAS BEEN TREATED IN ITS BILATERAL AGREEMENTS. HE ADDED USG/HKG TEXTILE RELATIONSHIPS HAVE BEEN QUOTE HAPPY QUOTE.

2. IN EARLIER TALKS WITH HKG, EC NEGOTIATORS APPARENTLY REFLOATED IDEA OF ADDING A RECESSION CLAUSE TO THE MFA AND CHOU SAID HIS GOVERNMENT REMAINED UNALTERABLY OPPOSED TO SUCH A PROVISION. FYI WE HAD NO PROBLEMS AGREEING WITH CHOU ON THIS POINT FYI.

3. USDEL TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO SET FORTH USG POSITION RE MFA RENEWAL, I.E., PREFERRED COURSE IS SIMPLE THREE YEAR EXTENSION WITH NO MODIFICATIONS. USDEL ALSO POINTED OUT DANGERS OF RENEWAL QUESTION SPILLING OVER INTO MTN TALKS AS WELL AS RISKS OF OPENING UP TO MODIFICATION PRESENT MFA LANGUAGE. CHOU REPEATED THAT HKG WOULD TAKE PRAGMATIC POSITION BUT HE COULD NOT GUARANTEE THAT HKG MIGHT NOT WANT SOME FURTHER CHANGES IN MFA.

4. RESULTS CONSULTATIONS ON TECHNICAL TEXTILE MATTERS FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXTILES, AGREEMENTS, MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE057481
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MBSMITH:ATN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760090-0226
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760378/aaaacrgrn.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN STR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <20 SEP 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MFA RENEWAL - HONG KONG VIEWS GENEVA FOR PHELAN
TAGS: ETRD
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006